

**CITIZENS' INDEPENDENT TRANSPORTATION TRUST (CITT)**  
**External Affairs Committee Meeting**  
**Monday, September 20, 2004**  
**Stephen P. Clark Center**  
**111 NW 1<sup>st</sup> Street**  
**10<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room**  
**10 a.m.**

**Summary Of Minutes**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Hon. James Reeder  
Miles Moss

**COUNTY ATTORNEY:**

Bruce Libhaber

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Nan A. Markowitz, Director, OCITT  
Nestor Toledo, OCITT  
Patricia David, OCITT  
Betty Alexander, DBD  
Patrice Rosemond, OCITT  
Ruby Hemingway-Adams, MDT  
Bill Foster, MDT  
Ana Chammas, ETSD

Virginia C. Diaz, OCITT  
John Labriola, OCITT  
Lourdes Gomez, MDT  
Lyn Harris, MDT  
Jack Furney, OCITT  
Pepe Valdes, OCITT  
Jose Otero, ETSD

**Roll Call**

At 10:10 a.m., with no quorum present, approval of agenda and minutes were deferred until the next committee meeting, and members Luis Morse and Marc Buoniconti were recorded as receiving excused absences.

**Citizens' Comments**

None

**Reports/Old Business**

**a. CITT Vacancy Marketing Outreach Effort**

Ms. Virginia Diaz, External Affairs Division Director, Office of the Citizens' Independent Transportation Trust, briefly discussed the effort to publicize CITT vacancies and solicit applications, which includes radio and print ads and email distribution. Ms. Diaz discussed the need to focus outreach on districts that have attracted a small number of applicants to ensure that the pool of candidates not fall below yet-to-be determined threshold level.

**b. MDT Customer Service Card Update**

Ms. Ruby Hemingway-Adams, Assistant Director of Customer Service, Miami-Dade Transit (MDT), provided an update on the proposed customer comment cards being developed at the External Affairs Committee's request, which are to be placed in racks on buses, at Metrorail stations, MDT satellite offices and Team Metro offices. The cards include pre-paid postage.

There would be an ongoing effort to keep a supply of cards in the racks. The MDT customer service office would be responsible for responding to patrons' comments.

Ms. Hemingway-Adams distributed 6-by-4-inch and 8-by-4-inch versions of the card. Postage for the cards would be 20 cents and 34 cents, respectively. Mr. Miles Moss, CITT member, favored the smaller size and proposed shrinking the font to make more room for comments. He suggested that a line be added informing patrons of the opportunity to complete the form on the web rather than mailing it in. Ms. Hemingway-Adams noted five budgeted staff positions already exist to handle customer comments and complaints by phone, email, etc. She said the new customer cards could create the need for hiring extra staff if response is high. Members suggested using interns. Ms. Hemingway-Adams cautioned that they may be prohibited from utilizing interns for this purpose given that the current classifications are union positions. Mr. Bruce Libhaber, Assistant County Attorney, was directed to provide a legal opinion as to whether interns could be used as an alternative to hiring more employees.

Mr. James Reeder, CITT member, requested deleting a line in the comment card encouraging patrons to be added to MDT's mailing list.

**c. Monthly Surtax Distribution Report**

Members were presented with the monthly surtax distribution report.

**d. Pre- and Post-PTP Status Report**

Bill Foster, Chief of Human Resources at MDT, answered questions about MDT's staffing report, which was revised at External Affairs Committee Chairman Luis Morse's request, to present side-by-side comparisons of all the pre- and post-PTP positions within MDT. Due to the chairman's absence, the report will be presented again at the next External Affairs Committee meeting.

**Action Items**

None.

**Citizen's Comments**

None.

**New Business**

**a. Federal and State Legislative Update**

Lyn Harris, MDT, reported that Congress and the White House have failed to reach agreement on a transportation spending bill. Without an extension, current funding expires this month. Regarding state funding, MDT has been trying without success to persuade the Florida Department of Transportation to shift from mostly highway funding to more transit and transit security funding. Ms. Harris also reported that FDOT has created a new Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) pool of funding, which is for designated regional modes of transportation. MDT's goal for the upcoming legislative session is to convince FDOT to include Metrorail in this pool of funding.

Currently, Tri-Rail is included but Metrorail is not. The Citizens' Transportation Advisory Committee of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) oversees SIS funding. Ms. Harris also discussed funding cuts to the County's Non-Emergency Medicaid Transportation program, which would create a \$1.1 million shortfall. The Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged regulates the program. MDT will attempt to renegotiate with the current county vendor to have them absorb some of the shortfall. Failing that, MDT will advise the state that the County will no longer administer the program, at which point the state would assume responsibility for running it.

**b. Municipal Update**

Ms. Diaz reported that all municipalities are now in compliance with certification requirements and that the County Commission was scheduled to take up a CITT resolution on Sept. 21, 2004. A discussion followed regarding the maintenance of effort requirement for municipalities. The Ordinance establishing the surtax requires that a municipality's share of surtax proceeds be used only to supplement, not replace, its general fund support for transportation at the time the surtax was approved. However, for several municipalities, the baseline general fund support for transportation is zero, due to the fact that they had been using special funds for transportation projects rather than the general fund. Mr. Libhaber then addressed the County's recent legal opinion that no municipality operating transit services that receive surtax funds may exclude access to non-city residents.

**c. Trafficrelief/CITT Website Update**

Ms. Diaz delivered a presentation on the new CITT website and updates and proposed changes to trafficrelief.com. The CITT website includes member biographies and photos, copies of minutes and agendas from all meetings, department information and many other features. Mr. Jose Otero, ETSD, also reported some of the upcoming changes to Trafficrelief.com. The site will feature improved navigability and more information on public works projects, municipal transit services and a neighborhood mapping feature that will bring up all surtax-funded improvements in a selected neighborhood. For some of these changes to occur, the CITT must obtain more information from the Public Works Department (PWD). The mapping feature is being developed by MDT. Trafficrelief.com also includes a section on the Smart Commute program, which helps residents buying homes within 1.5 miles of a mass transit station with 15-minutes or better service to qualify for a mortgage and a low down payment from participating lenders. The program also entitles them to a one-year transit pass from MDT. Ms. Diaz stressed the need for better promotion of this program.

Following the website presentation, Mr. Reeder asked if surtax funds could be used for Busway improvements. Mr. Libhaber said this would require an amendment to the People's Transportation Plan. Ms. Diaz said she believed that a study on grade separation was being conducted. A status report on this issue would be presented at the next Committee Meeting. Staff will also look into whether the PWD or MDT is evaluating accident history along the Busway or has a plan to deal with it.

Ms. Diaz then announced that Miami-Dade County has earned the Center for Transportation Excellence's "Most Innovative Coalition Building" award in recognition of its successful campaign for the People's Transportation Plan (PTP) and the half-percent transportation surtax referendum in 2002, including its outreach effort and use of Trafficrelief.com.

Mr. Libhaber again addressed the maintenance of effort issue with regard to municipalities. Cities are disputing what constitutes general fund support for transportation. The issue has both legal and budget implications. Staff will go through minutes from prior meetings to develop a list of this and other issues to be discussed following the November election by a Task Force of the CITT, which will develop recommendations for possible changes to the Ordinance establishing the surtax. Any amendment to the Ordinance would require County Commission approval.

**Announcements – Next External Affairs Committee meeting –**  
October 18, 2004, 10 a.m.  
SPCC, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

**\*\*\*MINUTES ARE IN SUMMARY FORM\*\*\***  
**FOR VERBATIM TRANSCRIPTIONS OF THIS MEETING PLEASE REQUEST**  
**COPIES OF THE TAPE FROM MIAMI-DADE COUNTY'S**  
**OFFICE OF THE CITIZENS' INDEPENDENT TRANSPORTATION TRUST**  
**AT 305-375-3481**